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NEW CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL CREATED TO ADDRESS NEEDS OF CHILDREN

First Meeting Tomorrow in Sacramento; CHHS Secretary Belshé and Supreme Court Justice Moreno are Co-Chairs

SACRAMENTO – California Health and Human Services Secretary Kim Belshé and California Supreme Court Associate Justice Carlos Moreno will hold the first meeting of the new California Child Welfare Council on Thursday, November 15 at the Radisson Hotel, 500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento.

The first group of its kind in California, the council is designed to address the needs of children in the foster care system or in danger of out-of-home placement throughout the state.

“It is our collective responsibility to provide a safe, supportive and nurturing environment and development opportunities for the more than 85,000 abused or neglected children who have been removed from their homes or are in danger of being removed,” said Secretary Belshé. “By working together, we can better coordinate resources to improve outcomes for foster youth and children at risk of out of home placement.”

“For the first time in history, the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches are coming together to think critically about the needs of children and youth in the child welfare system,” said Associate Supreme Court Justice and Council Co-Chair Carlos Moreno. “When we fail to talk to each other and to coordinate our vast agencies, organizations and systems, it is our most at-risk children and families who suffer. Together, we can better structure services and achieve enhanced outcomes for California’s struggling families and vulnerable children.”

The Council's 53 members include leaders from all three branches of state government as well as county leaders, current and former foster youth, child and parent advocates, and researchers. It is an advisory body that will consider recommendations to improve child and family outcomes through increased collaboration and coordination among

the programs, services and processes administered by the multiple agencies and courts that serve children and youth in California's child welfare system.

The California Child Welfare Council was created through legislation signed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The Council will have the opportunity to build on the ongoing work of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care, a group led by Justice Moreno and appointed by the Chief Justice to enhance the ability of the courts and the legal process to improve safety, permanency, well-being, and fairness for children in foster care. The Blue Ribbon Commission is scheduled to issue its findings in Spring 2008.

MANDATED MEMBERSHIP

Ms. Kim Belshé	Secretary, Health and Human Services Agency
Justice Carlos Moreno	(designee of Chief Justice Ronald George) Associate Justice, Supreme Court of California
Dr. William Ellerbe, Jr.	(designee of Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell) Superintendent of Public Instruction
Dr. Diane Woodruff	(designee of Chancellor of CA Community Colleges) Sarah Tyson
Mr. Kenneth Noonan	President, State Board of Education
Mr. John Wagner	Director, Department of Social Services
Ms. Sandra Shewry	Director, Department of Health Care Services
Dr. Stephen Mayberg	Director, Department of Mental Health
Ms. Renée Zito	Director, Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs
Mr. Bernard Warner	Chief Deputy Secretary, Juvenile Justice Division
Ms. Terri Delgadillo	Director, Department of Developmental Services
Ms. Karen Grace-Kaho	Foster Care Ombudsman, CA Department of Social Services
Mr. William Vickrey	Administrative Director, California Administrative Office of the Courts
The Honorable David Jones	California State Assembly
The Honorable Jim Beall, Jr.	California State Assembly
The Honorable Darrell Steinberg	California State Senate
The Honorable Patricia Wiggins	California State Senate
Mr. Jonathan Pearson	Legislative and Policy Coordinator, California Youth Connection
Ms. Janay Swain	Northern CA Outreach Coordinator, California Youth Connection
Ms. Marquita Jones	San Francisco CSOC Youth Task Force
Mr. H J David Ambroz	Executive Director, Los Angeles City College Foundation

MEMBERSHIP APPOINTED BY CHHS SECRETARY AND ASSOCIATE JUSTICE

Mr. Patrick Gardner	Deputy Director, National Center for Youth Law
Ms. Sheila Anderson	President and CEO, Prevent Child Abuse California
Mr. Carroll Schroeder	Executive Director, CA Alliance of Child and Family Services

Ms. Regina Deihl	Executive Director, Legal Advocates for Permanent Parenting
Ms. Pat Reynolds-Harris	Founder of the CA Permanency for Youth
Ms. Ana Espana	Dependency Attorney, San Diego Public Defenders Office
Ms. Leslie Heimov	Executive Director, Children's Law Center
Ms. Brenda Randle	AOD Program Administrator, Kings County Behavioral Health
Ms. Trish Ploehn	Director, LA Dept of Child and Family Services
Mr. Will Lightbourne	Director, Santa Clara County Social Service Agency
Mrs. Cathi Huerta	Interim Director, Fresno County Social Service Agency
Hon. Leonard Edwards (Ret.)	Judge-in-Residence, California Administrative Office of the Courts
Hon. Vance Raye	Appellate Court Justice-3rd District Court of Appeal
Mr. Dennis Jones	Court Executive Officer-Sacramento Superior Court
Hon. Michael Nash	Presiding Judge, Los Angeles Juvenile Court
Ms. Essence Webb	Secretary, CA Association of Black Social Workers
Mr. David Green	Adoption Social Worker, LA Dept of Children and Family Services
The Honorable Karen Bass	California State Assembly
The Honorable Bill Maze	California State Assembly
Ms. Kathryn Icenhower	Executive Director, SHEILDS for Families, Inc.
Mr. Ken Berrick	President/CEO Seneca Center for Children and Families
Mr. Bill Bettencourt	Senior Consultant, Annie E. Casey Foundation
Ms. Miryam Choca	Director, California Strategies, Casey Family Programs
Ms. Teri Kook	Senior Program Officer, Stuart Foundation
Mr. Michael Kriletich	Chief Probation Officer, Calaveras County
Mr. Frank Mecca	Executive Director, CWDA
Ms. Robin Allen	Executive Director, California CASA Association
Mr. Aubrey Manuel	President, CA State Care Providers Assn.
Dr. Barbara Needell	Principal Investigator, UC Berkeley
Ms. Sayida Sandoval	Parent Partner, Contra Costa County
Ms. Lisa Ames	Tribal Social Services Dept Mgr, Tuolumne Band of Me Wuk Indians
Ms. April Attebury	Tribal Court Administrator, Karuk Tribe of CA

The first meeting of the Child Welfare Council is scheduled for 1:00 p.m., Thursday, November 15, 2007 at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento, 500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento, CA 95815. Additional information about the Council is available at:
www.chhs.ca.gov/Initiatives/CACChildWelfareCouncil.

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